

SENATE BILL 937

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11r2983

By: **Senator Dyson**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2011

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources Police Force – Number of Officers**

3 FOR the purpose of stating the intent of the General Assembly that the Natural
4 Resources Police Force employ a certain number of Natural Resources police
5 officers by a certain date; requiring the Governor to include certain amounts in
6 the annual budget bills for certain fiscal years to make certain progress toward
7 achieving a certain employment goal; and generally relating to the Natural
8 Resources Police Force.

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Natural Resources
11 Section 1–201.2
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

14 Preamble

15 WHEREAS, Chapter 367 of the Acts of 2010 demonstrated the intent of the
16 General Assembly to strengthen enforcement of the State’s conservation laws
17 consistent with the public trust doctrine, which affirms government’s responsibility to
18 administer, protect, manage, and conserve fish and wildlife for the benefit of the
19 public; and

20 WHEREAS, The lingering economic recession has resulted in a historic
21 reduction in financial support from the General Fund to the Natural Resources Police
22 Force, resulting in fewer Natural Resources police officers in the field and on the
23 waterways and more frequent violation of the State’s conservation laws; and

24 WHEREAS, Since 1990, there has been a 50% decrease in the number of
25 Natural Resources police officers in the State; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



